

What is claimed is:

1. A preview device, comprising:

display section for simulating a state where a predetermined image is actually drawn on an image-forming surface on which a tangible image is formed; and

display information acquisition section for acquiring display information about actual display state of the image displayed by the display section on the image-forming surface.

10 2. The preview device according to claim 1, wherein the display information contains at least the size of the displayed image on the image-forming surface, position of the displayed image on the image-forming surface, or color of the displayed image on the image-forming surface.

15

3. The preview device according to claim 1 or 2, further comprising correction section for changing the display state of the image displayed by the display section on the image-forming surface.

20

4. The preview device according to claim 1, wherein the display section simulates a state where an image is actually drawn on the image-forming surface by projecting light on the image-forming surface.

25

5. The preview device according to claim 4, wherein the display information acquisition section acquires the display information based on at least the position of the display

section to the image-forming surface, distance of the display section from the image-forming surface, projection angle of light projected onto the image-forming surface, or color of the image-forming surface.

5

6. The preview device according to claim 5, wherein the distance of the display section from the image-forming surface is acquired based on the magnification and focal distance of an optical system used by the display section to project light.

10

7. The preview device according to claim 1, wherein the display section includes a display which transmits light from one side to the other side of a display surface where images are displayed and the display section simulates a state where 15 a predetermined image is actually drawn on the image-forming surface with the display superimposed over the image-forming surface.

20

8. The preview device according to claim 1, capable of generating drawing data for drawing the predetermined image on the image-forming surface nearly the same as the simulated predetermined image based on the display information.

25

9. The preview device according to claim 8, further comprising drawing section for drawing the predetermined image tangibly based on the drawing data.

10. The preview device according to claim 9, wherein the drawing section draws the predetermined image directly on the image-forming surface based on the drawing data.

5 11. The preview device according to claim 9, wherein the drawing section draws the predetermined image on a drawing medium added to the image-forming surface, based on the drawing data.

10 12. The preview device according to claim 11, wherein the drawing section is capable of drawing the predetermined image on a plurality of drawing media by dividing it into parts.

15 13. The preview device according to claim 12, wherein the image-forming surface contains markers which serve as a guide for dividing the image-forming surface into multiple areas, the display information acquisition section acquires the positions of the markers on a displayed image, and the drawing section draws the predetermined image on a plurality of drawing media by dividing it into parts based on the positions of the markers.

20 14. The preview device according to claim 13, wherein the drawing section is a predetermined printer.

25

15. The preview device according to claim 14, wherein the drawing section is an ink jet printer.

16. The preview device according to claim 9, further comprising color matching section for matching colors between the image displayed by the display section and the image drawn by the drawing section.

5

17. The preview device according to claim 8, capable of acquiring the display information about a plurality of images, judging the shape of each image based on the display information, and laying out the plurality of images on a drawing surface 10 at a higher density.

18. The preview device according to claim 9, further comprising cutting section for automatically cutting off, or making it easy to cut off, images drawn by the drawing section.

15

19. The preview device according to claim 1, further comprising image reading section for reading images and capable of utilizing data about the images read by the image reading section.

20

20. The preview device according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the sections described above is configured as a unit separate from the other sections and is capable of communicating with the other sections.

25

21. The preview device according to claim 1, wherein the display section includes a plurality of projectors capable of projecting screen images onto the image-forming surface

and displays the predetermined image using the screen images projected by the individual projectors on the image-forming surface.

5 22. An electronic device equipped with the preview device set forth in any of claims 1 to 21.

---

23. An image forming apparatus equipped with the preview device set forth in any of claims 1 to 21.